

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

20 JUL 1979

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Dear [REDACTED]

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We are in receipt of 21 letters from you, all dated 29 June 1979, requesting access to any information the Agency may hold pertaining to the United Students Coalition, Harvey Milk, Das Institut, Leo Ryan, Louis Lomax, Charles Horman, Patrice Lumumba, Charles Mingus, Otis Redding, Frank Teruggi, Steven Biko, Ernesto "Che" Guervara, Medgar Evers, Janis Joplin, Fred Hampton, Marcus Chenault, Donald DeFreeze, Adam Clayton Powell, Karen Silkwood, Rev. Jim Jones and Salvador Allende. Some of the subjects of your requests are known to us, but others are not. Off hand, I would imagine that we would need additional biographical data and proof of death for Karen Silkwood, Fred Hampton, Frank Teruggi, Otis Redding, and Charles Mingus. If we can, without engaging in research, obtain enough information from our library to conduct a meaningful search, we will proceed with these requests. It might expedite matters, however, if you could forward the information to us. We also need more details on Marcus Chenault, whom you describe as an assassin--his date and place of birth, citizenship, living or dead, the person(s) he is alleged to have assassinated. Please understand that, if you cannot provide the information we need, we will still conduct a search. Without sufficient information, however, the search costs would be much higher. For example, we might needlessly search certain files. We would also have to retrieve and examine for relevance any document containing a name similar to the subjects of your requests. Moreover, if we were unable to establish, through lack of information, that the person mentioned in the document was identical with the subject of the request, that document would have to be treated as non-responsive. I trust that you will understand the problems involved.

In each instance, you have asked for a waiver of fees, but state that you are prepared to pay processing costs. We also note that yours is [REDACTED]. If you can produce a letter from the head of [REDACTED] an organization with which you state

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that [] was associated at one time, authorizing [] to represent them in this matter, all processing fees will be waived for that request. In addition, it may be that we are already working on requests involving some of your topics. For example, I believe that we currently have, or have had, requests concerning Salvador Allende, the Rev. Jim Jones, "Che" Guevara, and Louis Lomax. There may be others as well. To the degree that these requests duplicate yours, you would be charged only the 10¢ copying fee for any material released--a significant saving.

As you probably know, fee waivers are based upon the benefit to the general public which is likely to result from processing a request. In other words, we have to weigh the amount and nature of the information which will probably be released against that already in the public domain. You will agree, I am certain, that a great deal of information is already available to the public relating to many of the subjects of your requests. In all candor, it is very questionable whether we would have much to add to what is already available. Indeed, it would be rather surprising if our searches produced any information on certain of the topics--musicians, for example. In other cases, the Director's obligation to protect intelligence sources and methods may very well preclude the release of any information not already in the public domain. For these reasons, we must conclude that the benefit to the general public will prove insufficient to warrant either a waiver or a reduction of our search and duplication fees. If we are mistaken, and a significant amount of new material is in fact found in our files and deemed releasable, we will of course reopen the question of whether fees should be waived for the request involved. In the meantime, however, we will initiate our processing efforts on the basis that you have given us your commitment to pay whatever charges are incurred. Please clarify at your earliest convenience the question of whether you have been authorized to represent []

In addition, as was mentioned above, any additional identifying information which you can provide on the subjects of your requests will facilitate our processing and help in lessening the search costs. A copy of our fee schedule is enclosed.

In view of the large backlog of unanswered requests (over 2,400), and in an effort to treat all requesters equitably, it is our policy to handle them on a first-in, first-out basis. Accordingly, we will be unable to respond to your requests within the 10 working days stipulated

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in the Freedom of Information Act. If you wish, it is your right to construe our failure to respond as being tantamount to a denial, subject to appeal to the CIA Information Review Committee. It would seem more reasonable, however, for us to continue to work on your requests and to respond as soon as feasible. Unless we hear from you to the contrary, we will assume that this arrangement is agreeable to you and proceed on that basis.

Sincerely,



George W. Owens
Information and Privacy Coordinator

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Enclosure

JUL 18 9 15 AM '79

Reverend Jim Jones
People's Temple leader
Died 11/78
June 29, 1979

Mr. George Owens
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

~~TOP SECRET~~
F79-0712
BKR/FD

Dear FOIA-PA Coordinator:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act as amended (5 U.S.C. Section 552).

On behalf of [redacted]

[redacted] we write to request a copy of all files in the Central Intelligence Agency indexed or maintained under the name Jim Jones and all documents returnable by a search for documents containing this name. This includes, but is not limited to, information in any "Do Not File" and "Administrative Matters" files, and any other similarly labeled file(s) which contain information relevant to our request.

As you know, the amended Act provides that if some parts of a file are exempt from release that "reasonably segregable" portions shall be provided. We therefore request that, if you determine that some portions of the requested information are exempt, you provide us immediately with a copy of the remainder of the file. We, of course, reserve our right to appeal any such decisions.

If you determine that some or all of the requested information is exempt from release, we would appreciate your advising us as to which exemption(s) you believe covers the information which you are not releasing.

We are prepared to pay costs specified in your regulations for locating the requested files and reproducing them.

As you know, the amended Act permits you to reduce or waive the fees if that "is in the public interest because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefitting the public." We believe that this request plainly fits that category and ask that you waive any fees.

As provided for in the amended Act, we will expect to receive a reply within 10 working days.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

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